

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 02402 221642Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 AID-05 MCT-01

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P R 221615Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3840

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2402

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA: NEW AMNESTIES

REF: CONAKRY 2379

1. ACCORDING TO RDLIABLE SOURCES, ONE ADDITIONAL GUINEAN POLITICAL PRISONER WAS RELEASED DECEMBER 20, MAKING TOTAL OF 43 FREED IN TWO-DAY PERIOD (REFTEL). THEY INCLUDE 19 FROM CAMP BOIRO (CONAKRY), AND 24 FROM PRISON AT KINDIA.

2. ONE EX-OFFICIAL IS MOUMOUKE KABA, EX-DIRECTOR OF CONAKRY WATER DISTRIBUTION (DEG), HUSBAND OF A FRENCH CITIZEN WHO RESIDES IN CONAKRY WORKING AS A NURSE AT DONKA HOSPITAL.

3. THREE AMNESTIED MIXED-NATIONALITY LEBANESE (REFTEL) ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART THIS WEEK FOR FRANCE, WHERE THEY HAVE RELATIVES. THE OTHERS APPARENTLY WILL REMAIN IN GUINEA FOR TIME BEING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 02402 221642Z

4. ACCORDING TO SOURCES, ARCHBISHOP RAMOND-MARIE TCHIDIMBO (REFTEL) IS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH IN CAMP BOIRO AND PLAYS CARDS WITH OTHER PRIVILEGED INMATES.

5. SOURCES INDICATE THAT GUINEA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW PROBABLY NUMBER CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 1000.

FORTY ARE KNOWN STILL TO BE IN CAMP BOIRO FROM ARRESTS IN 1971-72 AND 1976. ABOUT 150 ARE IN CAMP BORIO'S ANNEX, INCLUDING WOMEN; FOR EXAMPLE, SISTER OF SOCIAL DOMAIN MINISTER SAIFOULAYE DIALLO WHO WAS ARRESTED IN 1976 FOR CRITICISING SEKOU TOURE TO HIS FACE. THERE ARE ALSO ABOUT 50 CLANDESTINE BORDERCROSSERS. AT KINDIA THERE ARE 40 POLITICAL PRISONERS. SOURCES HAD NO CONTACT WITH OR INFORMATION ABOUT PRISONERS ELSEWHERE IN GUINEA WHERE POLITICAL PRISONERS MAY POSSIBLY BE HELD.

6. COMMENT: IT MAY WELL BE THAT 1970-76 ARRESTS TOTALLED OVER 2500. BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AMNESTIES AND PERHAPS ALSO DEATHS HAVE REDUCED THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN RECENT YEARS MUCH BELOW ORIGINAL ESTIMATES. ALSO, SOME "UNACCOUNTED-FOR" CASES MAY HAVE FLED ABORAD TO ESCAPE ARREST AND IN PROCESS LOST TOUCH WITH FAMILIES WHO CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THEY WERE STILL CONFINED IN GUINEA. THE "LESS-THAN-1000" FIGURE JIBES WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CALCULATION AND SEEMS REASONABLE TO EMBASSY PENDING FURTHER EVIDENCE.

7. ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY CURRENT ADDITIONAL INMATES OF CAMP BOIRO ARE THOSE ARRESTED IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1977 AFTER MARKET RIOTS OF LATE AUGUST. MOST ARE CITY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CONAKR 02402 221642Z

MERCHANTS SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION OR ABETTING RIOTS, AND MOST EXPECT TO BE RELEASED AFTER ON-GOING INVESTIGATION IS TERMINATED.

8. ABOVE INFORMATION SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD FOR PROTECTION OF THOSE PRISONERS NOW RELEASED AND TO AVOID COMPLICATING POSSIBLE FUTURE RELEASES. GOG APPARENTLY EXTRACTS PROMISE FROM RELEASED PRISONERS NOT TO TALK. UNWARRANTED PUBLICITY MIGHT BACKFIRE HERE.
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